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SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/122,293	07/24/98	SAKAYORI	M 1232-4457

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EXAMINER	
IRSHADULLAH M	
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Please find below a communication from the EXAMINER in charge of this application.

Commissioner of Patents



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EXAMINER

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ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

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06/07/00

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

**Office Action Summary**Application No.  
**09/122,293**

Applicant(s)

**Sakayori et al.**

Examiner

**M. Irshadullah**

Group Art Unit

**2765**☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jul 24, 1998☐ This action is **FINAL**.☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

**Disposition of Claims**☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.**Application Papers**☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).☒ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been☒ received.☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).**Attachment(s)**☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 3 & 4☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
  - a) Page 3, line 21: " Fig. 12B " should be " Fig 13B ";
  - b) Page 4, line 11: " divided " should be " dividing ";
  - c) Page 6, line 11: " achiever " should be " achieve ";
  - d) Page 16, line 23: " public line, the ..... " should be " public line, to the ..... ";
  - e) Page 24, line 22: " in " ought to be " if ";
  - f) Page 32, line 18: " than " should be " that ";
  - g) Page 39, line 2: insert " of 231-4 " after " higher ";
  - h) Page 40, line 14: " data of " should be " DB "; and line 18: " ( electronics industry D, electronics..... " might read " electronics industry D through ..... ";
  - i) Page 42, line 12: insert " like 602 " after " database ";
  - j) Page 43, line 10: delete " by ";
  - k) Page 51, line 15: " issuance " is needed between " order " and " management ".

Similar numerous other phraseological/constructional/grammatical/editorial deficiencies are noted throughout the specification.

Appropriate corrections/editing and sentence reconstruction/phrasing are appreciably required for the benefit of the Patent Community..

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***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 1-17, 21-25 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

In independent claims 1, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 21-25 and 29, the terms “expanding means, means for expansion and expanding (step)” have not been defined/described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make/realize and/or use/implement the invention.

Claims dependent from the above mentioned independent claims are rejected owing their dependency.

4. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The term “nodeless tree structure” has simply been mentioned by the Applicant in the Summary on page 16, lines 13-15”; however, the same has not been defined/described in the

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specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make/realize and/or use/implement the invention.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. The claims and specification are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. They appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical/phrasiological/sentence construction and idiomatic errors as mentioned under minor objections to specification ( 1 ) above

Appropriate corrections are appreciably required for the benefit of the Patent Community.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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8. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 16-19, 21, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dworkin ( US Patent 4,992,940 ).

Dworkin discloses:

**Claim 1.** A parts ordering system [ Abstract, lines 1-2, 23-24 and col 3, lines 9-11 ] having a first domain [ Fig. 1 ( 5 ), col 4, lines 3-10 ], a second domain [ Fig. 1 ( 1 ) ] and a third domain [ Fig. 1 ( any of 9a-9d ) ] connected in a tree structure [ Fig. 1 ( 1 to 9a-9d ) ], wherein said second domain includes:

expanding means [ Figs. 2A, 2B described col 4, line 30-col 9, line 35 ] for expanding, into its component parts [ Figs. 4-6 and 8 , Fig. 3 read with col 3, lines 55-59, col 4, line 35-col 5, line 21 ], an order that has been received from the first domain; and

communication means for communicating, to the third domain, the order for each component part expanded by said expanding means [ Fig. 1 ( 5 to 1, 1 to 3, 7 and 1 to 9a-9d ) described lines 3-21 ].

**Claim 2.** The system according to claim 1, wherein said first domain, second domain and third domain have means for issuing an order [ Fig. 1 ( 1 ), col 4, lines 13-23 ], means for receiving an order [ inherently implied, since the suppliers 9a-9d ought to have means for receiving the order sent by a sender ], means for devising a machining plan based upon the order received, means for performing expansion, into each component part, in accordance with

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the machining plan, means for devising an ordering plan for a part that has been expanded into its component parts, means for ordering a part expanded into individual parts units based upon the ordering plan, means for reading data from a database in accordance with the order for the part, and means for writing the read data to the database [ Figs. 1, 2A, 2B and 3-8. Although Dworkin shows a comprehensive plan in Figs. 2A and 2B, yet he does not explicitly recite devising machining and other plans. However, the plans under consideration would be inherently implied, since planning is a pre-requisite of any business, specifically manufacturing ];

wherein a plurality of connections are made possible on a network in a tree structure [ Fig. 1 and col 4, lines 3-10 and 13-23 ].\

**Claim 5.** The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for performing expansion into each component part has means for performing expansion in units of individual parts constructing a manufactured product based upon a received order [ Figs. 2A and 2B together with Figs. 4-6 and 8 ], and means for calculating the number of parts [ Determining/calculating minimum number of parts required for making/constructing ordered product is logically inherently implied ].

**Claim 7.** The system according to claim 1, wherein said first domain, which corresponds to an ordering starting point, has means for issuing an order in accordance with an order input [ Fig. 1 (5), col 4, lines 3-10 and 35-43 ( specifically lines 41-43 ), and said third



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domain, which corresponds to an ordering end point, has means for receiving an order in response to the issuance of the order [ Fig. 1 ( any of 9a-9d ). It needs be mentioned that vendors have to have an order receiving means ].

**Claim 8.** The system according to claim 1, wherein said first, second and third domains are connected in a nodeless tree structure, and an order for each component part processed by said first domain is communicated to the third domain without processing being duplicated by the expanding means of said second domain [ Fig. 1 ( 5 to 1 ). It needs be mentioned that user sends the order to computer/CPU 1, and 1 transmits it further to vendors 9a-9d, hence, duplication would be avoided ].

**Claim 18.** A parts ordering system comprising a server, a client, an operating system, a central processing unit, a storage device, an input unit, and output unit and a resident process program [ Fig. 1, col 3, lines 61-64, col 4, lines 3-11 and 30-32 ].

**Claim 19.** The system according to claim 18, wherein said storage device is a database [ Fig. 1 ( 3 ) ].

**Claim 21.** A parts ordering method [ Abstract, lines 1-2, 23-24 and col 3, lines 9-11 ] whereby a first domain [ Fig. 1 ( 5 ), col 4, lines 3-10 ], a second domain [ Fig. 1 (1) ] and a third

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domain [ Fig. 1 ( any of 9a-9d ) ] and a third domain [ Fig. 1 ( 1 to 9a-9d ) ] connected in a tree structure deliver and receive orders, comprising:

an expanding step at which the second domain expands [ Figs. 2A, 2B described col 4, line 30-col 9, line 35 ], into its component parts [ Figs. 4-6 and 8 , Fig. 3 read with col 3, lines 55-59, col 4, line 35-col 5, line 21 ], an order that has been received from the first domain ; and

a communication step at which the second domain communicates, to the third domain, an order for each component part expanded at the expanding step [ Fig. 1 ( 5 to 1, 1 to 3, 7 and 1 to 9a-9d ) described lines 3-21 ].

**Claim 26.** A parts management system comprising a server, a client, an operating system, a central processing unit, a storage device, an input unit, and output unit and a resident process program [ Fig. 1, col 3, lines 61-64, col 4, lines 3-11 and 30-32 ].

**Claim 27.** The system according to claim 26, wherein said storage device is a database [ Fig. 1 ( 3 ) ].

9. Claims 9, 10 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Inui et al ( US Patent 5,204,821 ).

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Inui et al disclose:

**Claim 9.** A parts ordering system [ Abstract, lines 1-4 ] in which a domain on a first network [ Fig. 1 ( 11, 12, 13 and 14, col 4, lines 1-4 ], and a domain on a second network [ Fig. 1 ( 20 and 30 ) ] are connected via a public line, wherein the domain on said second network includes:

means for receiving an order from the domain on said first network [ Fig. 1 ( 21 ) ];

means for devising a machining plan based upon the order [ Col 6, lines 10-46 ( specifically lines 12-15 ) ];

means for performing expansion, into each component part, in accordance with the machining plan [ Fig. 1 ( 14 to 11, 12, 13 ) recited with col 4, lines 1-4 and 64-67 ];

means for devising an ordering plan for each expanded component part [ Fig 1 ( 14 ), col 5, lines 8-12 ]; and

means for ordering in units of individual parts in accordance with the ordering plan [ Col 5, lines 16-24 ].

**Claim 10.** The system according to claim 9, wherein the domain on a third network connected to the domain on the second network via a LAN receives an order, which is issued by the domain on said first network, via a public line, the domain on said second network and said LAN [ Fig. 1 ( 14 to 20 via 30 ) ].

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**Claim 29.** A computer readable recording medium on which has been recorded a program [ Fig. 2 ( 14c ) described col 4, lines 67-68 ] by which the following means are implemented by a computer:

- means for issuing an order [ Fig. 1 ( 14 ) ];
- means for receiving an order [ Fig. 1 ( 21 ) ];
- means for devising a machining plan based upon the order received [ Col 6, lines 10-46 ( specifically lines 12-15 ) ];
- means for performing expansion, into each component part, in accordance with the machining plan [ Fig. 1 ( 14 to 11, 12, 13 ) read with col 4, lines 1-4 and 64-67 ];
- means for devising an ordering plan for a part that has been expanded into its component parts [ Fig. 1 ( 14 ), col 5, lines 8-12 ];
- means for ordering a part expanded into individual parts units based upon the ordering plan [ Col 5, lines 16-24 ];
- means for reading data from a database in accordance with the order for the part [ Fig 4, described col 8, lines 7- 15 ]; and
- means for writing the read data to the database [ Fig. 4 ( 14a and 14c ) and Fig. 5 described col 8, lines 20-50 ].

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***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 3, 11-17, 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dworkin ( US Patent 4,992,940 ).

In the following claim:

**Claim 3.** The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for receiving an order [ See discussion in applicant's **Claim 2** above ] as Dworkin shows the undernoted, means for making a comparison [ Col 4, lines 35-38, col 5, lines 11-15 and claim 7, lines 14-15 ] with data, which has been retained in a database [ Col 6, lines 26-37 ( specifically lines 30-31, and 36-37 ], but fails to teach: to determine whether an order is a new order, a modified order or retransmission of the same order.

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Official notice is taken that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, because it would help the order sender to take an appropriate action in the light of the determined status of the order.

In the undermentioned claim Dworkin shows:

**Claim 11.** A parts ordering system having a database which stores a number of specific parts contained in inventory [ Col 3, lines 9-11 and Fig. 1 ( 3 ), col 3, lines 61-63, Figs. 3-6, Abstract, lines 4-8 and col 6, lines 26-30 ], as well as a first domain [ Fig. 1 ( 5 ) ], second domain [ Fig. 1 ( 1 ) ] and third domain [ Fig. 1 ( 9a-9d ) ] connected in a tree structure [ Fig. 1 ( 1 connected to 9a-9d via 8a-8d ) ], wherein said second domain includes:

means for performing expansion [ Figs. 2A, 2B described col 4, line 30-col 9, line 35 ], into each component part [ Figs. 4-6 and 8 , Fig. 3 read with col 3, lines 55-59, col 4, line 35-col 5, line 21 ], based upon an order received from the first domain;

communication means for communicating, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units expanded by said expanding means [ Fig. 1 ( 5 to 1, 1 to 3, 7 and 1 to 9a-9d ) described lines 3-21 ]; and

fails to teach the following feature:

stopping means for comparing the number of specific parts contained in inventory stored in the database and a required number of specific parts obtained by expansion performed by said expanding means, and stopping the communication of an order to the third domain in a case

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where the number of specific parts contained in inventory is greater, by a prescribed number, than the required number of specific parts.

Official notice is taken that the feature would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the computer art, because it would have been logical to stop the order, in case the number of parts available in the inventory is more than the parts required to make/assemble a product.

In the undermentioned claim Dworkin shows:

**Claim 12.** A parts ordering system in which a first domain is internally provided with a database in which a number of specific parts contained in inventory has been stored [ Col 3, lines 9-11, Fig. 1 ( 1 ) together with col 3, lines 62-63, Figs. 3-6 and Abstract, lines 4-8. It needs be mentioned that numbering of domains might vary as in here. ], wherein said first domain includes:

means for performing expansion [ Figs. 2A, 2B described col 4, line 30-col 9, line 35 ], into each component part [ Figs. 4-6 and 8 , Fig. 3 read with col 3, lines 55-59, col 4, line 35-col 5, line 21 ], based upon an order received from the second domain;

communication means for communicating, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units expanded by said expanding means [ Fig. 1 ( 5 to 1, 1 to 3, 7 and 1 to 9a-9d ) described lines 3-21 ]; and

fails to teach the following feature:

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stopping means for comparing the number of specific parts contained in inventory stored in the database within the first domain and a required number of specific parts obtained by expansion performed by said expanding means, and stopping the communication of an order to the third domain in a case where the number of specific parts contained in inventory is greater, by a prescribed number, than the required number of specific parts.

Official notice is taken that the feature would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the computer art, because it would have been logical to stop the order, in case the number of parts available in the inventory is more than the parts required to make/assemble a product.

**Claim 13.** A parts ordering system [ Col 3, lines 9-11 ] having a first domain [ Fig. 1 ( 1 ) ] and a second domain connected in a tree structure [ Fig. 1 ( 1 connected to 9a-9d via 8a-8d ], wherein said second domain includes:

expanding means [ Figs. 2A, 2B described col 4, line 30-col 9, line 35 ] for performing expansion into each component part [ Figs. 4-6 and 8 , Fig. 3 read with col 3, lines 55-59, col 4, line 35-col 5, line 21 ], based upon an order received from the first domain; and

In the following feature Dworkin shows:

first control means which controls reference permission for referring [ Fig. 2 ( steps 21, 23 ), col 4, lines 35-44 ],

but fails to teach:



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from an operating terminal connected to said second domain, to status of order receiving/issuance in individual parts units expanded by said expanding means.

Official notice is taken that the feature would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the computer art, because it would have been logical to have a means for knowing order(s) received relative to a part by the vendor(s) and the fulfilment of the order/issuance of the ordered part.

In the undermentioned claim:

**Claim 14.** The system according to claim 13, wherein said first control means Dworkin shows: permits reference to order data, machining plan data and sub-part inventory data of said first domain [ Fig. 2A and 2B ( 63, 65 ) and Figs. 3-6 ]

however, does not teach the following:

upon limiting this data to that required by said second domain.

Official notice is taken that the feature would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in computer art at the time of instant invention, because only the requisite information/data would be transmitted to an specific user/machine ( domain ).

In the claim mentioned below:

**Claim 15.** The system according to claim 14, wherein said first control means gives reference permission based upon a,

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Dworkin fails to teach:

combination of a domain number and password.

Official notice is taken that use of combination of IDs are old and well known practice in the computer art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to take advantage of the practice in vogue.

In the following claim Dworkin shows:

**Claim 16.** A parts ordering system having a first domain and a second domain connected in a tree structure [ Fig. 1 ( 1 connected to 9a-9d via 8a-8d ) ], wherein said second domain includes:

expanding means [ Figs. 2A, 2B described col 4, line 30-col 9, line 35 ] for expanding, into component parts [ Figs. 4-6 and 8 , Fig. 3 read with col 3, lines 55-59, col 4, line 35-col 5, line 21 ], an order that has been received from the first domain;

however, fails to teach the below noted feature:

first control means which controls permission to refer to an order for a component part expanded by said expanding means, reference being made from an operating terminal connected to the second domain, and second control means for controlling permission to refer to ordering information, within the first domain, related to an order issued to the second domain.

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Official notice is taken that use of the control means is old and well known technique/practice in the art of computers. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of current invention to make use of the available technique/practice.

In the following claim Dworkin shows:

**Claim 17.** The system according to claim 16, wherein the system is constituted by a single domain having order issuing means, order receiving means, machining planning means, constructional expansion means, ordering planning means and ordering means, an interface for making possible interconnection of domains in a tree structure, and input means [ Fig. 1 , col 3, lines 61-68 continue col 4, lines 3-68 and Figs. 2A and 2B ],

however, does not teach:

inputting, to a database, information relating to a part delivered in accordance with the order.

Official notice is taken that the feature would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, because it would facilitate confirmation/verification about the receipt of the part(s) as ordered and also updating of the database.

The following claim being a method claim of applicant's system claim 11, hence, same rationale applies to its rejection.

**Claim 22.** A parts ordering method whereby a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure deliver and receive orders via a database which stores a

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number of specific parts contained in inventory, comprising: an expanding step at which the second domain performs expansion, into each component part, based upon an order received from the first domain;

a communication step at which the second domain communicates, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units expanded at the expanding step; and

a stopping step at which the second domain compares the number of specific parts contained in inventory stored in the database and a required number of specific parts obtained by expansion performed at the expanding step, and stops the communication of an order to the third domain in a case where the number of specific parts contained in inventory is greater, by a prescribed number, than the required number of specific parts.

The undernoted claim being the method claim of the system claim 12 ( excepting the numbering of domains as shown below ], same rationale of rejection is applied.

**Claim 23.** A parts, ordering method whereby a first domain, which is internally provided with a database in which a number of specific parts contained in inventory has been stored, accepts an order from a second domain [ Here, computer/CPU 1 of Fig. 1 receives the order from Fig. 1 ( 5 ); i.e., ( 5 ) is now second domain and ( 1 ) is the first domain ] and communicates the order to a third domain [ Fig. 1 ( any of 9a-9d ) ], comprising:

an expanding step at which the first domain performs expansion, into each component part, based upon an order received from the second domain;

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a communication step at which the first domain communicates, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units expanded at the expanding step; and

a stopping step at which the first domain compares the number of specific parts contained in inventory stored in the database within the first domain and a required number of specific parts obtained by expansion performed at the expanding step, and stops the communication of an order to the third domain in a case where the number of specific parts contained in inventory is greater, by a prescribed number, than the required number of specific parts.

**Claim 24.** A parts management system having a database which stores a number of specific parts contained in inventory [ Fig. 1 ( 1, 3 ). Parts management by manufacturing firm(s) is a dire need in order for continuous construction/manufacturing of products and provide the same to the customers on time ], as well as a first domain [ Fig. 1 ( 5 ) ], a second domain [ Fig. 1 ( 1 ) ] and a third domain [ Fig. 1 ( 9a-9d ) connected in a tree structure [ 1 connected to 9a-9d via 8a-8d ], wherein said second domain includes:

means for performing expansion [ Figs. 2A, 2B described col 4, line 30-col 9, line 35 ], into each component part [ Figs. 4-6 and 8 , Fig. 3 read with col 3, lines 55-59, col 4, line 35-col 5, line 21 ], based upon an order received from the first domain; and

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communication means for communicating, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units expanded by said expanding means [ Fig. 1 ( 5 to 1, 1 to 3, 7 and 1 to 9a-9d ) described lines 3-21 ];

said second domain having input means for inputting, to the database, information relating to a part delivered in accordance with an order [ Fig. 1 ( 1, 5 ) together with col 4, lines 3-4 ].

In the following claim Dworkin shows:

**Claim 25.** The system according to claim 24, wherein the system is constituted by a single domain having order issuing means, order receiving means, machining planning means, constructional expansion means, ordering planning means and ordering means, an interface for making possible interconnection of domains in a tree structure, and input means [ Fig. 1 , col 3, lines 61-68 continue col 4, lines 3-68 and Figs. 2A and 2B ],

however, does not teach:

inputting, to a database, information relating to a part delivered in accordance with the order.

Official notice is taken that the feature would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, because it would facilitate confirmation/verification about the receipt of the part(s) as ordered and also updating of the database.

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12. Claims 20, 28 and 30-36 are rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inui et al ( US Patent 5,204,821 ).

In the following claim Inui et al show:

**Claim 20.** A parts ordering system [ Abstract, lines 1-4 ] in which a domain is connected to a first network [ Fig. 1 ( 11, 12, 13 and 14, col 4, lines 1-4 ] and a second network [ Fig. 1 ( arrow connecting 14 to 15 or to 20 via 30 ) ], said system having means for communicating information between said first network and said second network, however, fail to show the undernoted feature:

selectively depending upon importance of secrecy of the information.

Official notice is taken maintaining secrecy in information transferring is old and well known in the computer art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of instant invention to include the feature of secrecy, because providing secrecy is an essential and integral requirement.

**Claim 28.** A parts management system [ Abstract, lines 1-4 ] in which a domain is connected to a first network [ Fig. 1 ( 11, 12, 13 and 14, col 4, lines 1-4 ] and a second network [ Fig. 1 ( arrow connecting 14 to 15 or to 20 via 30 ) ], said system having means for communicating information between said first network and said second network however, fail to show the undernoted feature:

selectively depending upon importance of secrecy of the information.

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Official notice is taken maintaining secrecy in information transferring is old and well known in the computer art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of instant invention to include the feature of secrecy, because providing secrecy is an essential and integral requirement.

In the following claims Inui et al show:

**Claims 30 and 33.** An order-receiving/issuing management apparatus for managing receipt of an order [ Fig. 1 ( 14, 21 ) described col 4, line 65 and col 8, lines 7-15 ] in which a local domain receives an order from a first domain [ Fig. 1 ( 14 receiving orders from 11 or 12 or 13 ], and issuance of an order in which the local domain issues an order to a second domain [ Fig. 1 ( 14 to 20 ) ], comprising:

display means for displaying data [ Fig. 2 ( 14g ) ; and

display control means [ inherently implied ] for displaying/outputting, in combination on said display means,

however fail to teach the following feature:

an icon for identifying receipt of an order or issuance of an order, and data indicating results of receipt of an order or issuance of an order represented by the icon.

Official notice is taken that icon and their respective narrative representation(s) is old and well known technique in the computer art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to make use of the prevalent technique.



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**Claim 31.** The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said data is the number of processed issued/received orders corresponding to said icon [ Inherently implied in light of the above discussion ].

**Claim 32.** The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said icon displays one or a combination of a plurality of "expected", "orders determined", "delayed", "divided orders", "orders modified", inspection in progress" and "acceptance" [ Inherently implied in light of the discussion of **Claim 30** above ].

**Claim 34.** A computer readable recording medium [ Fig 2 ( 14c ) described col 4, lines 67-68 ] on which has been recorded a program by which the following steps are implemented by a computer:

a display step of displaying data [ Fig. 2 ( 14g ); and

a display control step of outputting, in combination to said display step, an icon for identifying receipt of an order or issuance of an order, and data indicating results of receipt of an order or issuance of an order represented by said icon [ See discussion of **Claim 30** above ].

**Claim 35.** The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said display control means displays receipt of an order, a machining plan, constructional expansion, an ordering plan and detailed information of an order on the display means based upon a command from input means

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[ Fig. 4 ( 21e ), Fig. 1 ( 21 ), Fig. 1 ( 11, 12, 13 ) ].

**Claim 36.** The method according to claim 33, wherein said display control step displays receipt of an order, a machining plan, constructional expansion, an ordering plan and detailed information of an order at said display step based upon a command from an input step [ Fig. 4 ( 21e ), Fig. 1 ( 21 ) ].

13. Claims 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dworkin ( US Patent 4,992,940 ) as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Inui et al ( US Patent 5,204,821 ).

In the following claim Dworkin fails to show claimed features, however, Inui et al teach the same:

**Claim 4.** The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for devising a machining plan has means for comparing a designated delivery date of a received order and planned production date retained in a database, and means for scheduling an expected production date based upon results of the comparison [ Fig. 61(1, step 612 ) described col 6, lines 24-47 and Fig. 6(2) ( box 626 ) ].

In the following claim Dworkin does not explicitly show the claimed features, however, Inui et al teach the same:

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**Claim 6.** The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for devising an ordering plan has means for comparing a number of parts contained in inventory and a number of parts required [ Figs 6(1), 6(2), 6(3), claim 4, lines 45-46 ], and means for calculating minimum units of an order [ Inherently implied, since determining/calculating the minimum number of parts to be ordered is a basic requisite of parts ordering technique/practice ] based upon results of the comparison.

### ***Conclusion***

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

A) Joseph, US Patent 5,878,401. Sales And Inventory Method And Apparatus.

B) Yamamoto et al., US Patent 5,771,172. Raw Material Ordering System.

C) Cameron et al., US Patent 5,592,378. Computerized Order Entry System And Method.

D) Caveney et al., US Patent 5,608,621. System And Method For Controlling The Number Of Units Of Parts in An Inventory.

E) Cornett et al., US Patent 5,216,612. Intelligent Computer Integrated Maintenance System And Method.

F) Brown et al., US Patent 4,972,318. Order Entry And Inventory Control Method.

G) Beasley et al., US Patent 4,827,423. Computer Integrated Manufacturing System.

H) Kimbrow, US Patent 4,737,910. Apparatus For Tracking Inventory.


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I) Schlafly, US Patent 4,734,858. Data Terminal And System For Placing Orders.

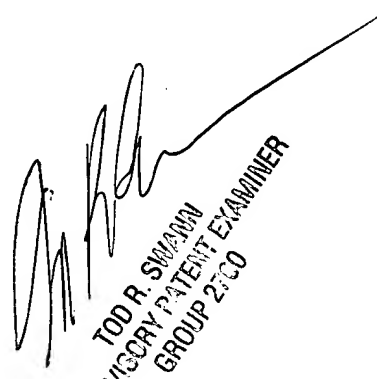
15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Irshadullah whose telephone number is (703) 308-6683. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allen MacDonald, can be reached on (703) 305-9708. The fax number for the organization is (703) 305-0040/308-6306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-3900.

  
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May 19, 2000

  
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